(a) the details of various afforestation programmes being implemented in Phulbani and Kalahandi districts of Orissa;

(b) the number of saplings planted during the last three years and the areas covered thereby; and

(c) the number of saplings out of them that have survived?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Committee for Grading of Medical Institutes

784. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any committee has been constituted to recommend the names of the Institutes for being graded as the best regional medical Institute;

(b) whether the committee has submitted its report; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (c). Yes. The Government have appointed a committee to identify one medical institution in each of the five zones of the country for upgradation of same into Regional Institutes of excellence in medical care and its report is awaited.

Report on Working of U.G.C.

785. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received the report of the Administrative Staff College of India regarding the working of the University Grants Commission and the powers and work to be assigned to its regional offices; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b). The report of Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad, on re-organisation of University Grants Commission was submitted to Commission in October, 1991. Some of the major recommendations of the report are:

— The number of Members of the Commission should be increased from the present strength of 12 to 16.

— UGC should have 4 or more Regional Office.

— The Regional Office should be entrusted with disbursement of all grants related to Universities and colleges within certain limits, but the sanction of schemes and proposals should be made at the Central Office.

— The Vice-Chairman should be given specific academic responsibilities.

— Work distribution should be rationalised and procedure streamlined. There should be closer monitoring of the schemes of UGC.

Forest Villages

786. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to the reply